By the King.

¶ Orders for thorow-Posts, and Curriers, riding in Post in Our Affaires.

THe Lords of the Priuie Councell endeauoring heretofore the like furtherance of the Seruice of the State, alwell in hoſling ſuch as ride on their Princes Affaires, as the ſpeedie diſpatch of Packets in all places, where Poſtes were erected and ordeined, conſidering, that for the ſeruice of the one, a daily Fee is allowed, and for the other no certaine wages at all, but the hire of the Horſes let out, and that often ill payed, whereby they ſtand not ſo bound to the one, as to attend the other: And that the Townes and Countreys beſides became many wayes vexed and perplexed, by the ouer great liberty of riders in Poſte, eſpecially by ſuch as pretend publike Seruice by ſpeciall Commiſſion, contrary to the Kings meaning, or their Lordſhips Orders: Who minding nothing more, then the particular good of his Seruants and ſubiects; for the benefite of the one, reliefe of the other, and more regard to the good vſage of all Owners of Horſes, and the beaſtes themſelues, did thinke it expedient, to digeſt and ſet downe ſundry neceſſary Orders indifferent for all parties to obſerue and follow. Which Orders being by vs reuiewed and conſidered, are now according to the neceſſity of the times, thought meete to bee eftſoones allowed and publiſhed. The execution whereof, we ſeriouſly recommending to the Maſter and Comptroller of all Our Poſtes, for the better warranting and directing of Poſtes, ſo farre as this Seruice may concerne them, Wee doe hereby ſtraitly charge and command, all and euery Lieutenants of Shires, deputy Lieutenants, Juſtices of al Aſſiſes and Peace, Sheriffes, Mayors, Bailiffes, Conſtables, Headboroughs, and all other his Officers, Miniſters, & louing ſubiects, to be aiding and aſſiſting to the ſame, with their vtmoſt helpe, authority and countenance where need ſhall require, as they tender the furtherance of the ſeruice of the State, and our diſpleaſure.

1. FIrſt it is ordered, That in all places where Poſtes are laid for the Packet, they alſo as perſons moſt fit, ſhall haue the benefit and preheminence of letting, furniſhing & appointing of Horſes to all riding in Poſte, (that is to ſay) with Horne and guide by Commiſſion or otherwiſe, And to that end ſhall keepe, and entertaine of their owne, or haue in a readineſſe vnder their direction, ſuch and ſo many able and ſufficient Poſt-horſes, with conuenient furniture, as their owne abilities will beare, or that the contributorie prouiſion of the Townes and Countreys ſhall enable them vnto, or afford. And if it fall out that Curriers or Thorow-Poſts, riding in our Affaires by ſpeciall Commiſſion, come ſo thicke, or in ſuch numbers, that their ordinary prouiſion will not ſuffice, then the Conſtables of the places where they dwell, with the aſſiſtance of the chiefe Magiſtrates there, and of the countreys adioyning, (being required in our name) ſhal take vp, bring in, and ſupply the Poſtes with horſes where they may be had or hired.

2. ANd like as in the Orders for the carying of the Packets, the furtherance of our ſeruice and the State is only aymed at, ſo in this it is intended, that none be holden to ride on publike affaires, but with ſpeciall Commiſſion, & the ſame ſigned either by one of our principall Secretaries of State, or ſixe at the leaſt of our Priuy Councell, or the Maſter and Comptroller generall of the Poſtes, for all iourneys outwards, and from the Court onely. And to the Court, the Lords of the Priuy Councell of Scotland, any Lieutenant, Deputy or Gouernors in Ireland, the Preſidents of Councels, or Vicepreſidents eſtabliſhed in the North, or in the Marches of Walles, the Gouernor of Barwicke, Any Ambaſſadour, Gouernours of Townes, or Agents beyond the Seas, The Warden of the Cinque Ports, or his Lieutenant of Douer, ſpecially ſending to the Court, to the body of the Councell, or Secretaries of State, or any Packet ſo directed, that it may appeare, the party diſpatched therewith, rideth in our ſpecial Affaires, (the Ambaſſadors of forreine Princes within this our Realme, and the ordinary Poſts for France and Flanders allowed, and by their badges ſufficiently commiſſionated, excepted) and of all ſuch ſo riding in publique Affaires, it ſhall be lawfull for the Poſtes, or the owners of the Horſes to demand for the hire of each Horſe after the rate of two pence halfepeny the mile, (beſides the Guides groats.) But of all others riding Poſte with Horne and Guide, about their priuate buſineſſes, the hire and prices are left to the parties diſcretions to agree and compound within themſelues.

3. IT ſhall not be lawfull for any perſon whatſoeuer riding in Poſt by Commiſſion or otherwiſe, to take and ride away the Horſe or Horſes of any man, Poſte or other, not hauing firſt or afore hand fully payd and ſatiſfied for the price and hire vnto the Owners or the Poſt for them, nor ride them further then the next immediate Stage without changing, without the knowledge and conſent of the Poſte of the Stage, by whom he rideth in Poſte, nor charge any Horſe ſo taken to ride in Poſt with any Male, or burden, (beſides his Rider) that exceedeth the weight of thirty pounds: Neither ſhall any man ſo riding in Poſt, offer to ride any mans Horſe aboue ſeuen miles the houre in Summer, viz. from the firſt of Aprill, till the laſt of September; nor aboue ſixe in Winter, which ſhall be acounted the reſt of the yeere: And if any ſhall wilfully diſobey herein, or in any point hereof to the manifeſt hurt or hinderance of the Horſe or his Owner, The Officers and Magiſtrates of the place vpon complaint made, ſhall ſtay the parties offending vntill they haue giuen preſent ſatisfaction, or ſufficient ſecuritie to repay the damage.

4. FInally, as it is onely intended that our ſeruice in this kind, be at all hands furthered, and the Poſts to that end, in all their wants and wrongs to right themſelues by the help and authority of the Magiſtrates, Townes & Countreys as aboueſaid: So if the ſeruice ſhall ſeeme vnto any Poſt a burden ouergreat for his priuate ſtate to beare and vndertake, and the Townes and Countreys (notwithſtanding the eaſe and quiet they reape thereby) no way willing to countenance, encourage or enable him thereto: or otherwiſe in regard of yeres or indiſpoſition, ſhal not ſee reaſon to vnderlie the charge and trouble of the ſeruice, as being a hinderance to his ſpeciall duety in the ſeruice of the Packet: The Poſte in ſuch caſe attending his peculiar charge, the Conſtables and Magiſtrates of the places ſhall take order from time to time, that Horſes be prouided for all riding in Poſte by Commiſſion, or ſpecially ſent in our Affaires as beforeſaid, in ſuch ſort as they were ſubiect to do before there were any Poſts there, and as in places where are yet no ſtanding Poſts at all. Vnto whom alſo our pleaſure is, that theſe Orders ſhall be in force, and auaileable (being deliuered them from the Maſter and Comptroller of the Poſts) ſo farre as they, and any branch of them may concerne the furtherance of publike ſeruice, or their owne reliefe.

Signed by his Maieſtie, and ſubſcribed by Charles Stanhop Knight of the Bath, Lord Stanhop of Harington, Maſter and Comptroller generall of his Highneſſe Poſtes.

God ſaue the King.

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